

## Miscellaneous

### THE WHITE VS. THE BLACK PLAGUE.

For the Presbyterian of the South.

I saw in the columns of a daily paper an announcement of a proposed special day—the 24th of April—as given out by the National Anti-Tuberculosis Association, as the time for informing the people of this country in regard “to the methods to be used in preventing the spread of the great white plague.” Also that “Governor Brown would shortly issue a proclamation, or request, to all the ministers of Georgia to set apart this 24th of April as Tuberculosis Day, and to preach on the proper methods to be used, etc.” This movement is most certainly a new one to the most of us. It would assuredly be a proper thing, and no doubt of much benefit, if the ministers of Georgia would preach on that day concerning the causes of the white plague. In this wonderful progressive age the medical profession should be well up on the causes of this disease. And certainly, without the aid of a united ministerial work, should know and publish to the world the best methods to be used in stamping out this terrible disease. We would like to ask what causes now prevail that have not prevailed for hundreds of years? Ordinary causes, such as are said to contribute to the spread of the disease, have always in past centuries been the same. The truth is, the real cause is not allowed to be brought to the light. We are impressed with the idea that if the association of Christian laymen would request, and the governors of all the States in the union would issue their proclamation calling upon all the ministers to preach on a certain Sabbath upon the best methods to be used in preventing the spread of the black plague of sin, worlds of good might be accomplished thereby. While thousands are dying with the white plague—tuberculosis—hundreds of thousands are dying the death that never dies, and going down to endless woe. It is evidently right and proper to guard the welfare of the body, to shun the causes that bring disease and suffering to the body as far as we are able to do so. But let us examine for a moment the prevailing causes of tuberculosis and other maladies. Fifty years ago this disease was almost unknown except in certain sections. People then lived in plain style; even the rich were simple in their habits. Late hours were the exception, seasonable clothing was worn, card parties among ladies were unknown, riding with bare head and arms could not be seen. Electric theaters had no existence for the betterment of the people then, and for the worsement of the people now. Coming out of the crowded house into the frosty air of the night, and possibly thinly clad, and that, too, night after night, is simply a challenge

to the floating germs of tuberculosis. And, unfortunately, we find the devotees of these worldly pleasures both in and outside of the visible kingdom of our Lord. Then go back to the tap-root of this floodtide of lung disease, and you will find that it is sin. Then let all these ministers, on the appointed day, tell the people the proper method to use to prevent the spread of the black plague of sin. Tell them to honor God and keep His commandments; to love money less and God more; to trampel under foot temptation's power; to search the Scriptures and turn their leaves instead of the spotted deck; to absent themselves from the pleasure halls of amusement and surround the family altar, crying unto God to stay the tide of sin, the plague of the soul, and then may we, as a people, use the proper method to arrest the tide of tuberculosis, the plague of the body.

G. A. Hough.

Columbus, Ga.

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Total .....\$ 518.82  
Previously acknowledged ..... 2,958.26

Total .....\$3,477.08  
Mrs. A. M. Howison, Tr.

E. Main St., Staunton, Va.

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